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Remediation planned for UM apartment

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University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations, "Remediation planned for UM apartment" (2006). *University of Montana News Releases, 1928, 1956-present*. 20030.
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The University of
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NEWS RELEASE

Oct. 30, 2006

Contact: Dan Corti, executive director, UM Environmental Health and Risk Management, 243-2881; Ron Brunell, director, UM Residence Life, 243-2611.

REMEDICATION PLANNED FOR UM APARTMENT

MISSOULA —

The carpet will be replaced and other remediation efforts undertaken in a single University of Montana apartment after low levels of a mold unique to that location were discovered in air samples. The work will begin this week.

Stachybotrys chartarum mold was discovered in the Lewis and Clark Villages unit during air sampling done on Oct. 18.

Dan Corti, executive director of UM Environmental Health and Risk Management, said the carpet and carpet tack strips in the apartment will be removed, and the cement slab beneath thoroughly cleaned. The drywall near where the mold was found also will be thoroughly inspected and disinfected, as well as furniture in the room.

"This is not an acute situation," Corti said. "I think UM Residence Life is taking a very conservative and safe approach to this by moving ahead to replace carpets, wash walls and look in the wall space."

He said the mold initially was discovered when residents moved a couch in the living room and noticed it growing on the carpet. The source was water leaking from a poorly sealed wall juncture in a shower in an adjoining room.

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Among his recommendations to prevent further mold growth in Lewis and Clark Villages, Corti suggests:

- limiting the use of humidifiers since the Lewis and Clark Villages have extremely tight construction.
- periodically inspecting similarly built showers to ensure they are adequately sealed.
- encouraging occupants to contact staff if a water leak of any sort is noticed.

Successful cleanup can almost always be done if surfaces are dried within 48 hours.

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